

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 DLOS-06 SAL-01 OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4482

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE-IN

CINCUSAFE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 5963

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ANKARA 5939

1. AUGUST 4 TURKISH PRESS FEATURED AN ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY FROM

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ATHENS THAT THE GOG WAS SENDING THE "NAUTILUS," IDENTIFIED AS A

GREEK NAVAL SEISMIC SHIP, INTO THE NORTHERN AGEAN.
CITING A REPORTED NICOSIA RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT, THE ARTICLES
STATED THAT THE SHIP DEPARTED SALAMIS AS A CONSEQUENCE
OF A TURKISH DECISION TO KEEP THE TURKISH SEISMIC SHIP
SISMIK IN THE AEGEAN FOR SIX WEEKS. ACCORDING TO THE
REPORTS, THE NAUTILUS WILL CONDUCT OCEANOGRAPHIC AND
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYS AND WILL ALSO MAKE A "TECHNICAL
MARKING OF THE 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS."

2. IN OTHER NEWS, MFA SPOKESMAN SEMIN AKBIL DENIED PRESS
REPORTS (REFTEL) THAT THE TURKISH "THESIS" ABOUT THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF HAD CHANGED. THE PAPERS ALSO REPORTED
THAT LOS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AMERASINGE HAD "ACCEPTED"
THE OBJECTIONS OF TURKISH LOS DELEGATION CHIEF TUNCEL AND
HAD INSCRIBED THE REGIME OF ISLANDS AND ENCLOSED SEAS ON
THE LIST OF IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION.

3. MILLIYET FEATURED A FRONT-PAGE CARTOON DEPICTING
PRIMIN DEMIREL LEANING OVER THE STERN OF THE SISMIK
LOOKING FOR TURKISH-GREEK COOPERATION ON THE AEGEAN
SEABED. READ THE CAPTION: "THE WEALTH UNDER THE AEGEAN
MUST BE LOOKED FOR."

4. ASKED ABOUT THE REPORTED SAILING OF THE NAUTILUS BY
AN EMBOFF AUGUST 4, HALIL DAG, MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, SAID HE HAD RECEIVED
NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE SAILING AND THAT THE GOT
HAD THEREFORE NOT FORMULATED AN OFFICIAL POSITION. NEVER-
THELESS, HE SAID HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE GOT POSITION
WOULD BE THAT INASMUCH AS THE STATUS OF THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF IN THE AEGEAN IS IN DISPUTE, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION
TO A GREEK SEISMIC SHIP CONDUCTING OPERATIONS IN
INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN.
MACOMBER

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